

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

# INVINCIBLE™

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**image**® COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE

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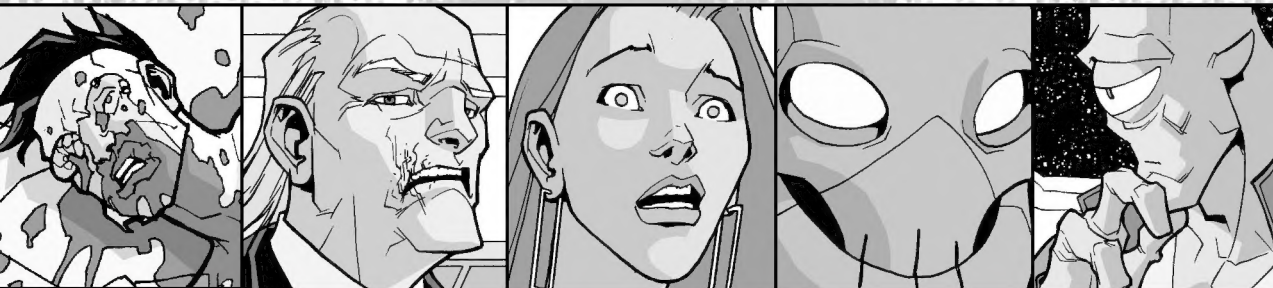
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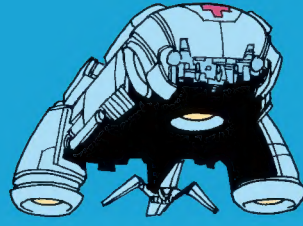
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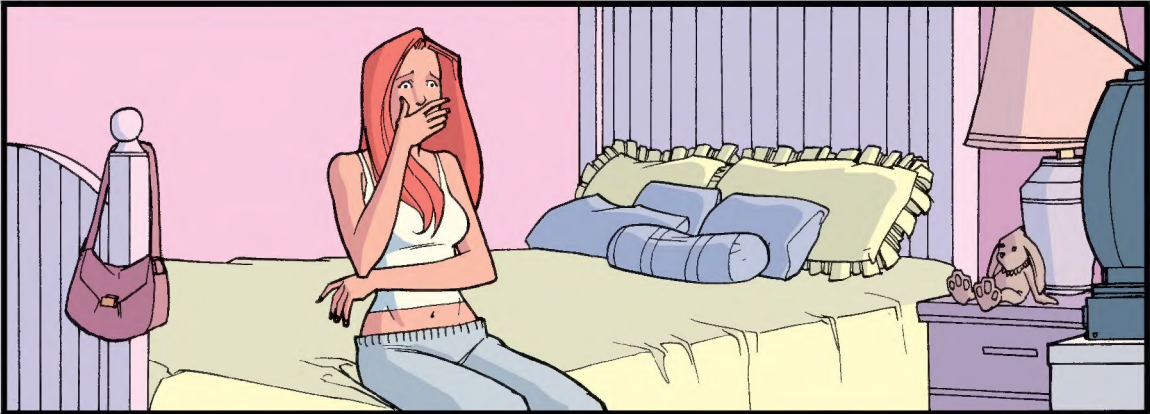
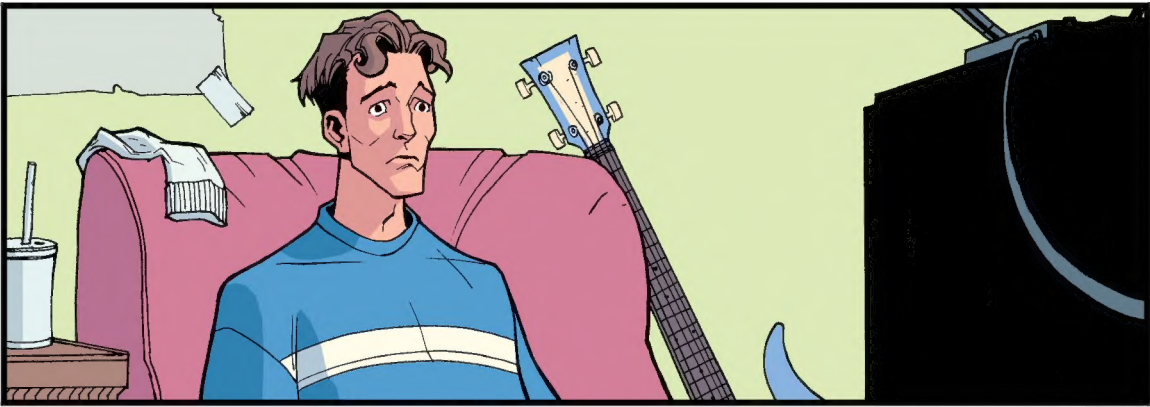
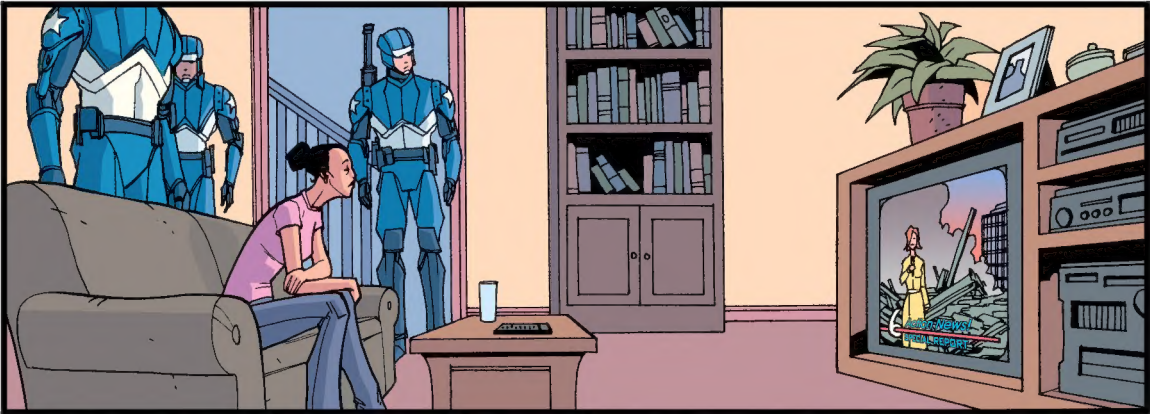
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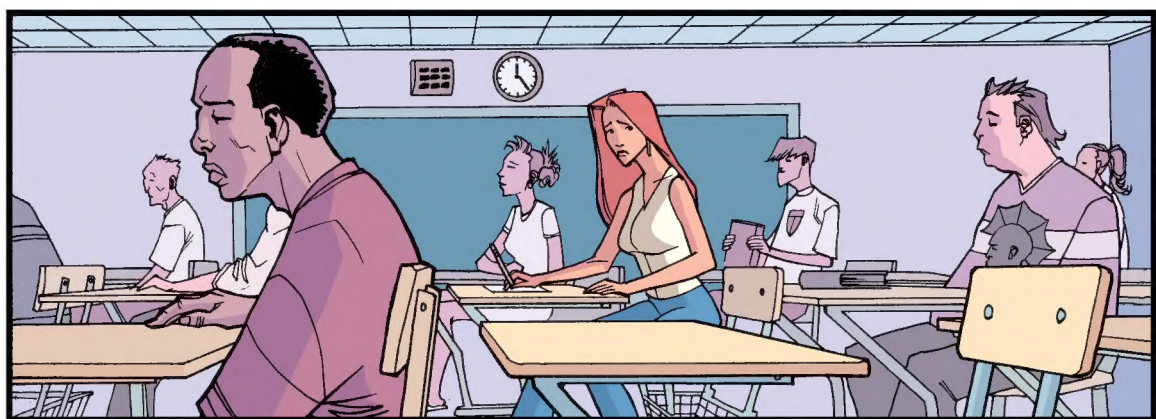
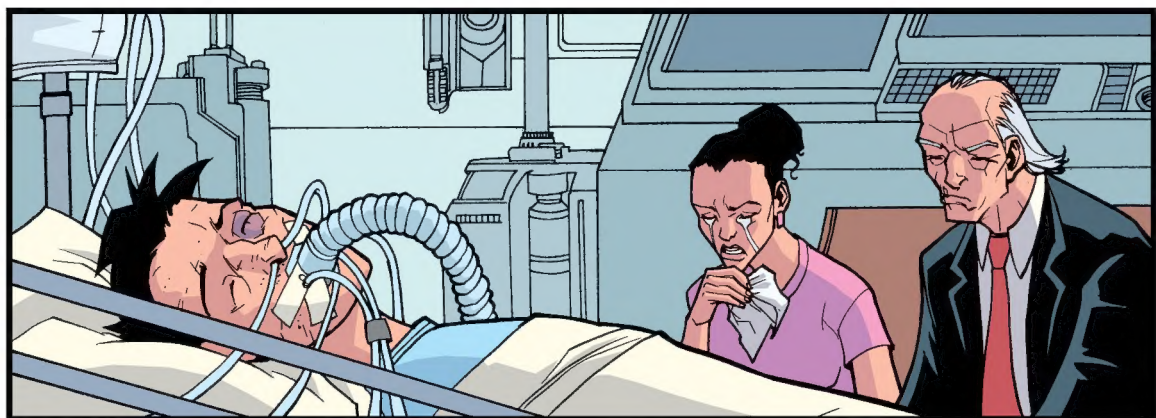
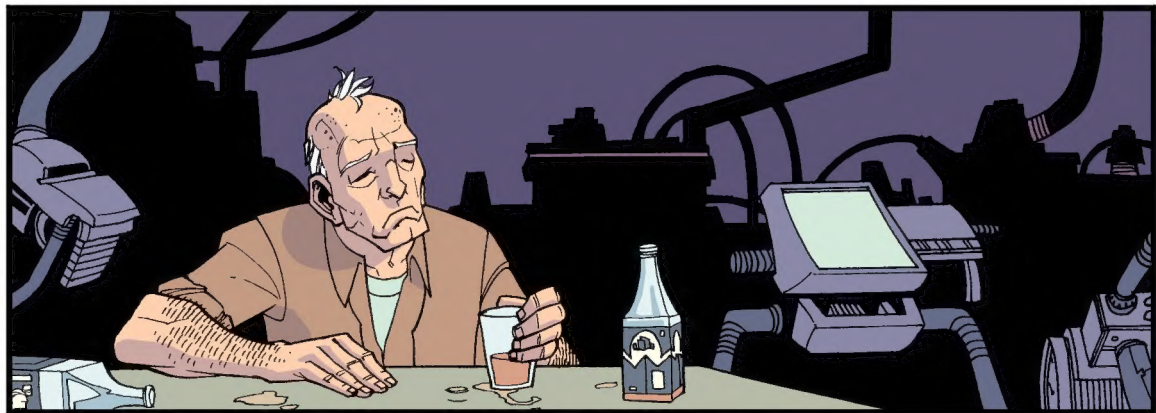




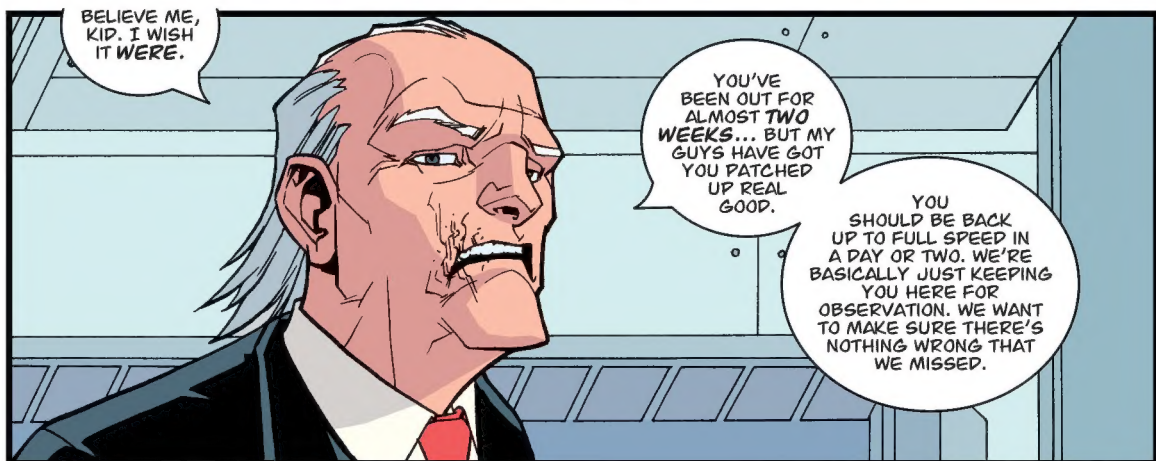
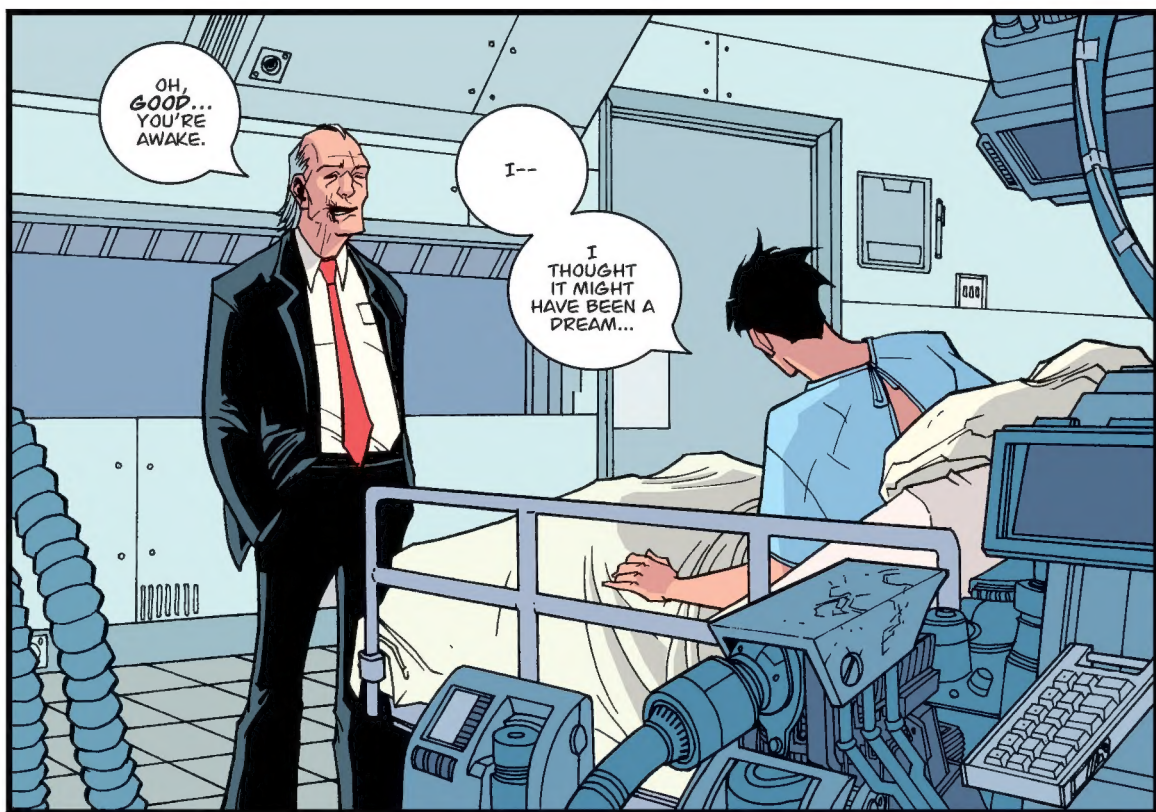




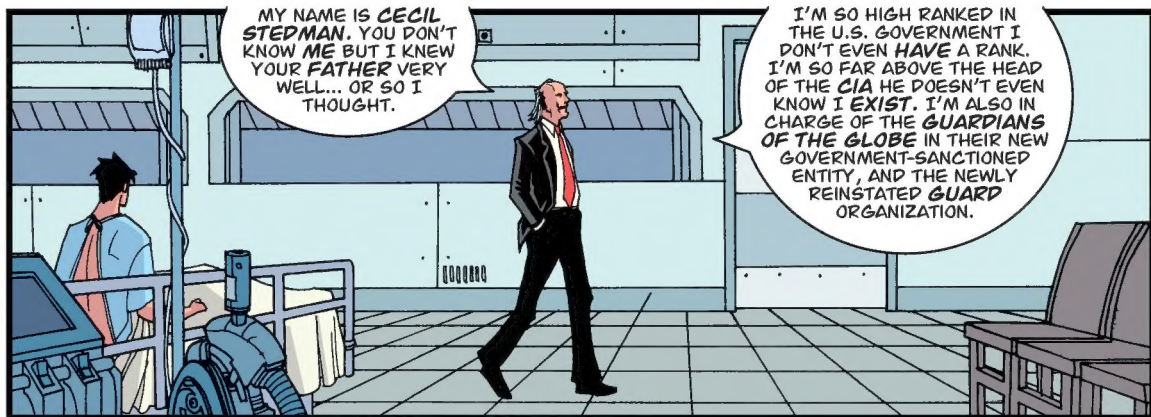






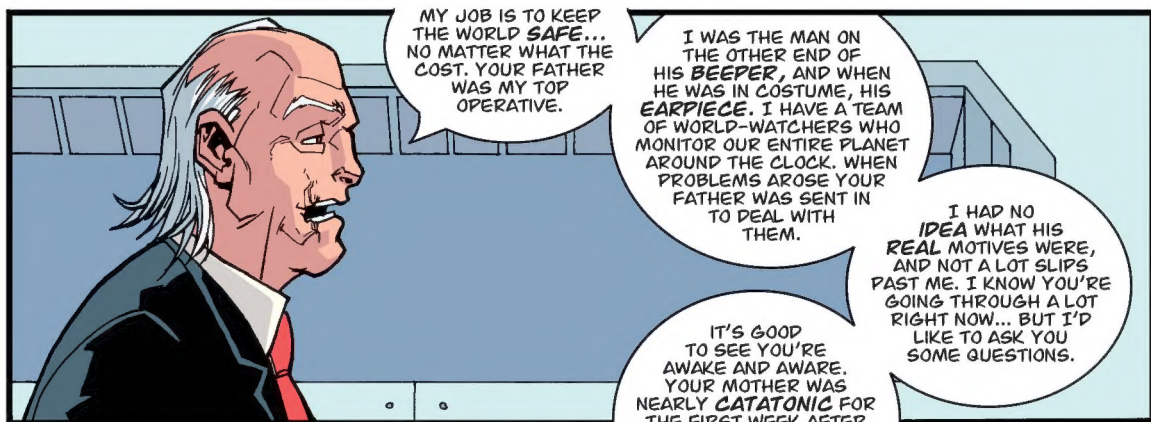






MY NAME IS **CECIL STEDMAN**. YOU DON'T KNOW ME BUT I KNEW YOUR FATHER VERY WELL... OR SO I THOUGHT.

I'M SO HIGH RANKED IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RANK. I'M SO FAR ABOVE THE HEAD OF THE CIA HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST. I'M ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE **GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE** IN THEIR NEW GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED ENTITY, AND THE NEWLY REINSTITATED **GUARD** ORGANIZATION.



MY JOB IS TO KEEP THE WORLD **SAFE**... NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. YOUR FATHER WAS MY TOP OPERATIVE.

I WAS THE MAN ON THE OTHER END OF HIS **BEEPER**, AND WHEN HE WAS IN COSTUME, HIS **EARRPIECE**. I HAVE A TEAM OF WORLD-WATCHERS WHO MONITOR OUR ENTIRE PLANET AROUND THE CLOCK. WHEN PROBLEMS AROSE YOUR FATHER WAS SENT IN TO DEAL WITH THEM.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HIS **REAL** MOTIVES WERE, AND NOT A LOT SLIPS PAST ME. I KNOW YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A LOT RIGHT NOW... BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE AWAKE AND AWARE. YOUR MOTHER WAS NEARLY **CATATONIC** FOR THE FIRST WEEK AFTER THE EVENT... SHE'S STILL NOT ALTOGETHER THERE, BUT SHE'S GETTING **BETTER**.



NOW... IF YOU'LL JUST--

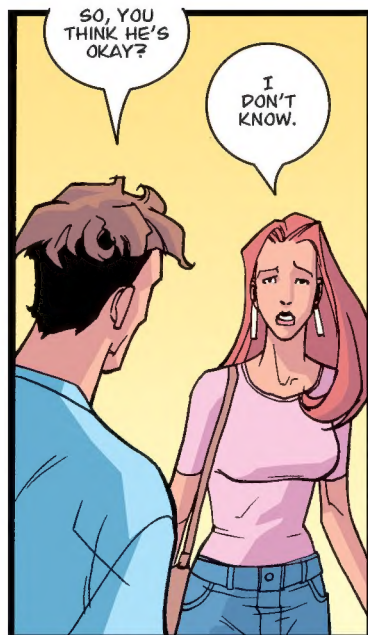
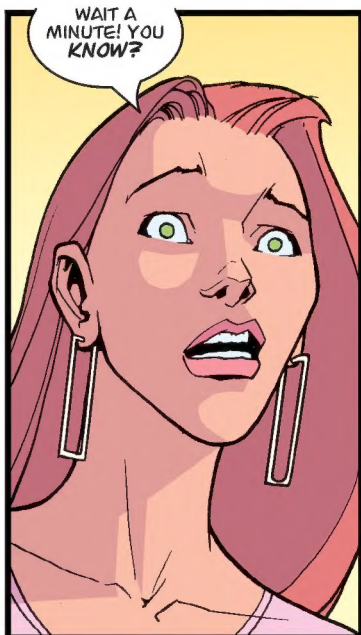
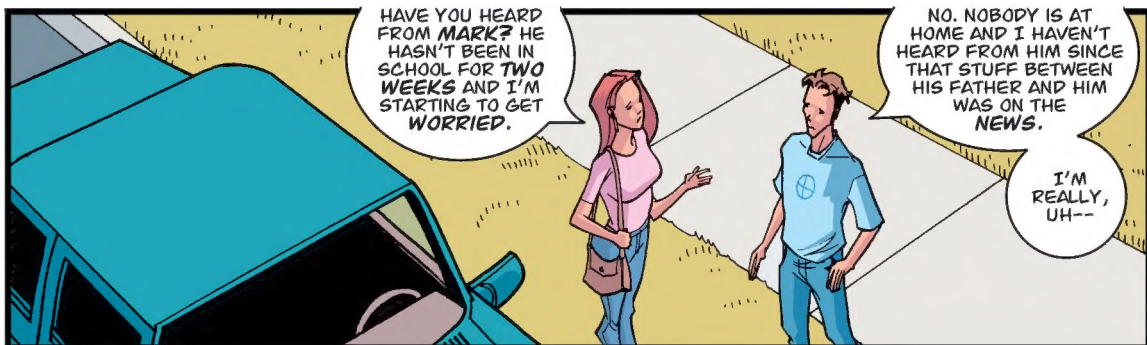
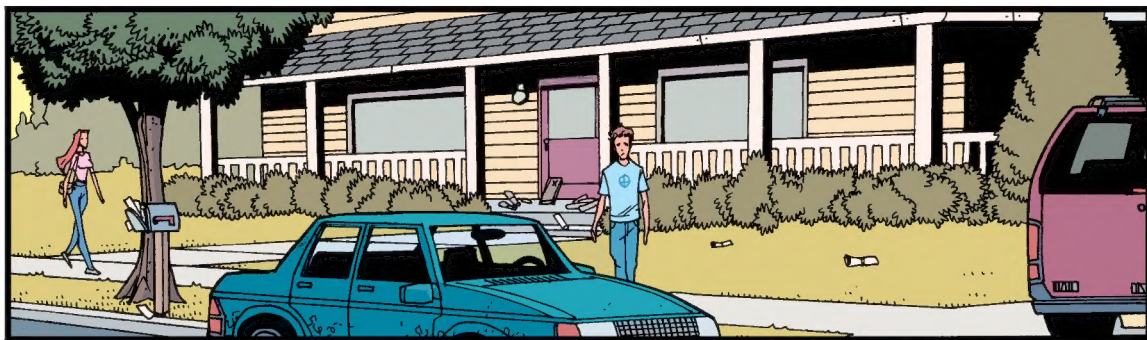
OH.



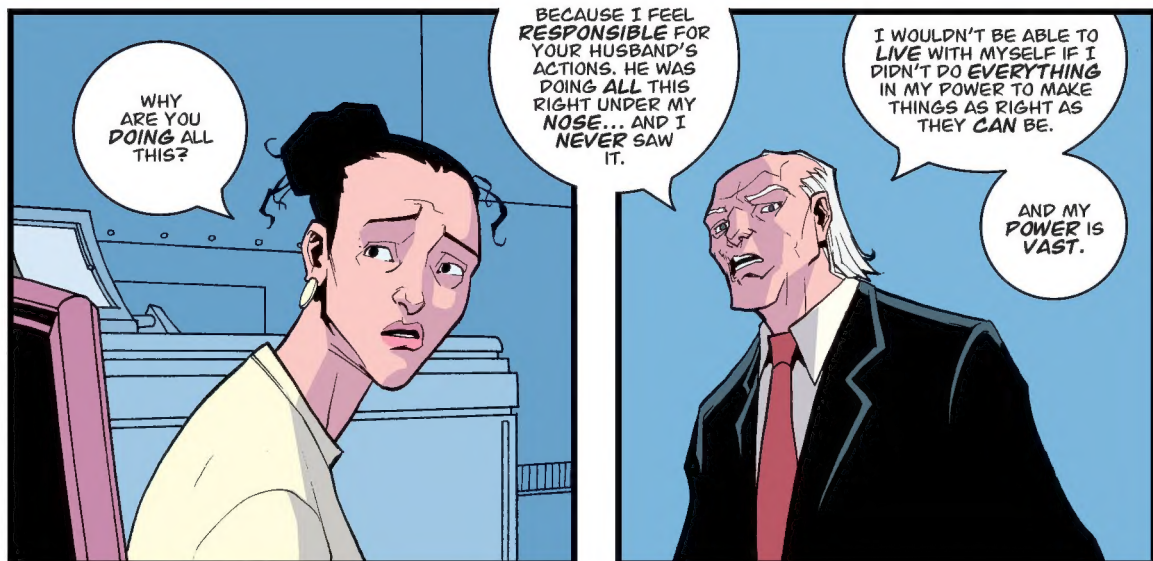
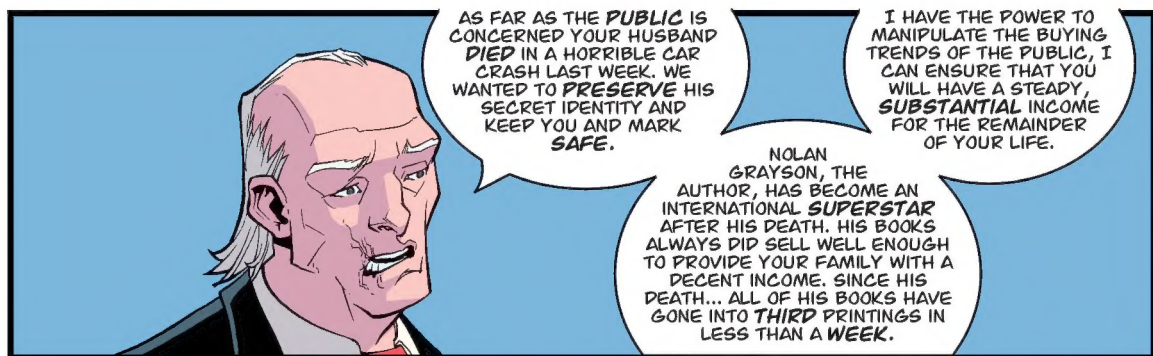
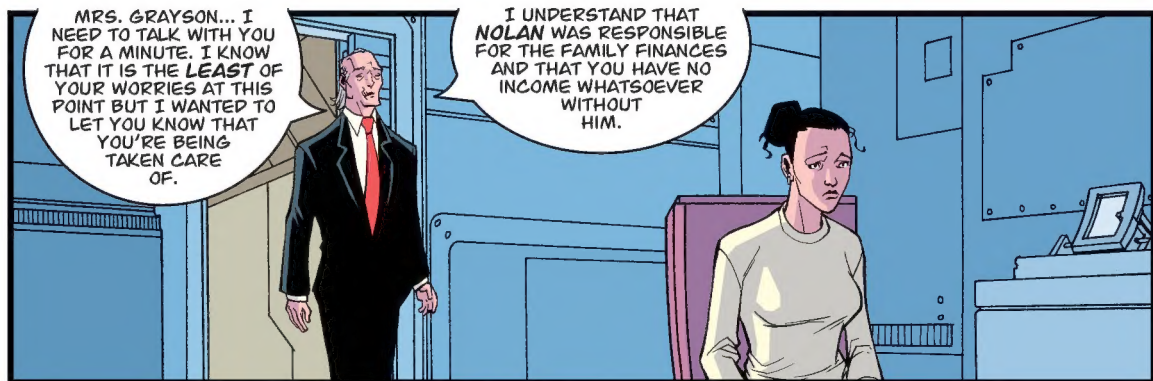
ANOTHER TIME THEN.

SORRY TO BOTHER.













OH, GOOD...  
YOU'RE HERE.  
I DIDN'T KNOW  
IF YOU WOULD  
BE.

WE HAVE  
BEEN USING THIS  
BASE AS A TEMPORARY  
HEADQUARTERS UNTIL  
THE GOVERNMENT CAN  
SECURE US A MORE  
SUITABLE  
FACILITY.

THE  
FORMER  
GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE  
HEADQUARTERS IS  
STILL OWNED JOINTLY  
BY WAR WOMAN'S  
CORPORATION AND  
DARKWING'S  
ESTATE.

THIS  
FACILITY  
IS STILL  
SUFFICIENT  
FOR OUR  
NEEDS.

ROBOT, I REALLY NEED  
YOUR HELP. INVINCIBLE  
HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE  
THAT FIGHT WITH OMNI-MAN  
WAS TELEVISED AND I  
DON'T KNOW WHERE  
HE COULD  
BE.

HE  
COULD BE  
DEAD! OR LYING  
SOMEWHERE  
NEAR  
DEAD.

DO YOU  
THINK YOU COULD  
CALL IN A FAVOR  
FROM SOMEONE IN  
THE GOVERNMENT  
AND TRY AND FIND  
HIM? YOU COULD  
USE SPY  
SATELLITES OR  
SOMETHING.

I WAS  
NOT AWARE  
OF INVINCIBLE'S  
DISAPPEARANCE.  
I WILL DO MY  
BEST TO LOCATE  
HIM. YOU HAVE  
MY WORD.

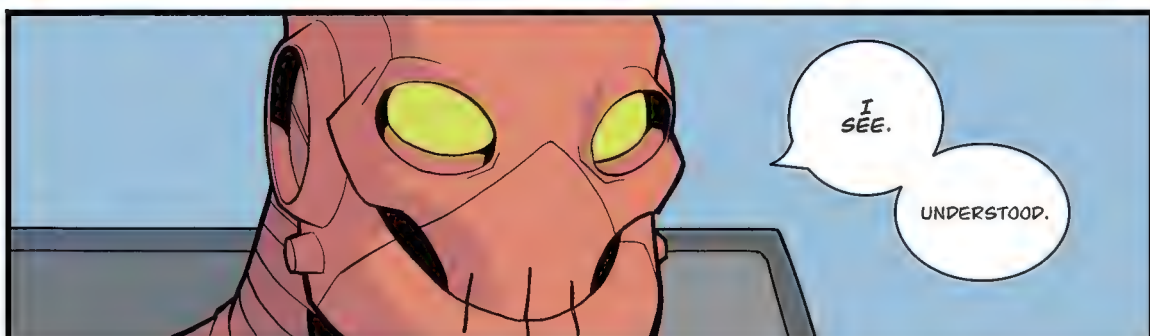
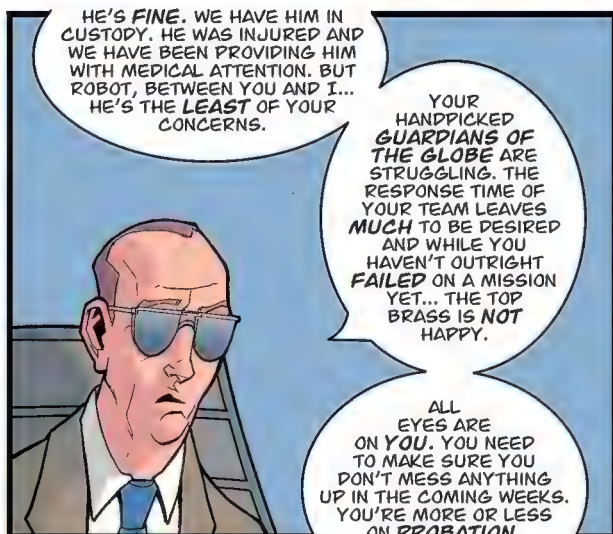
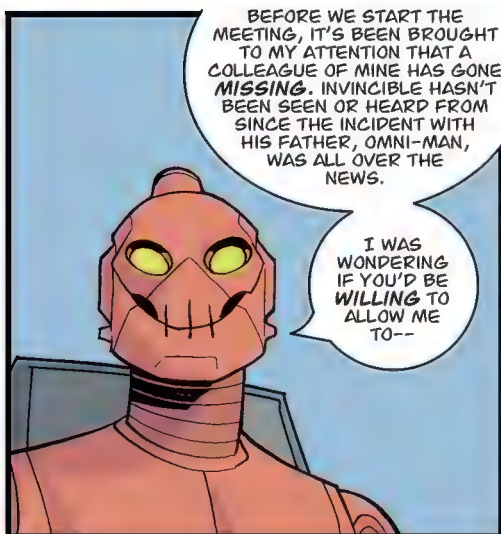
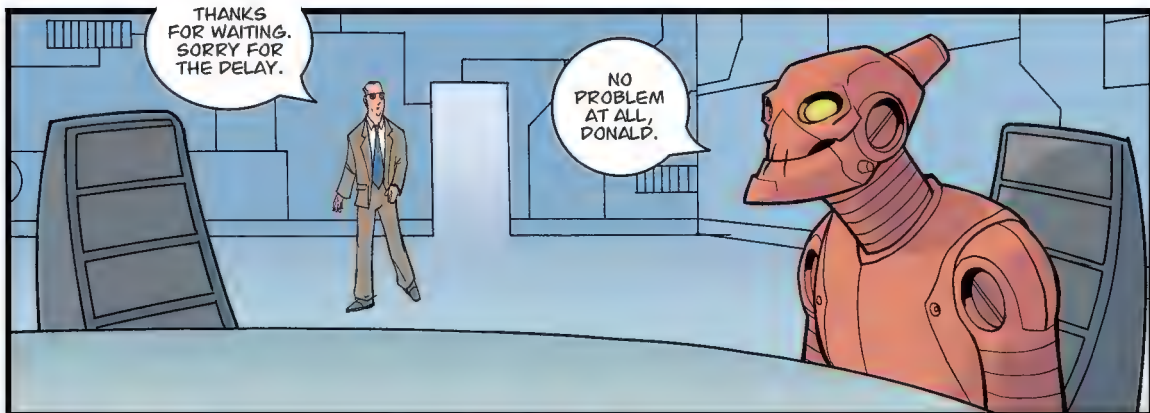
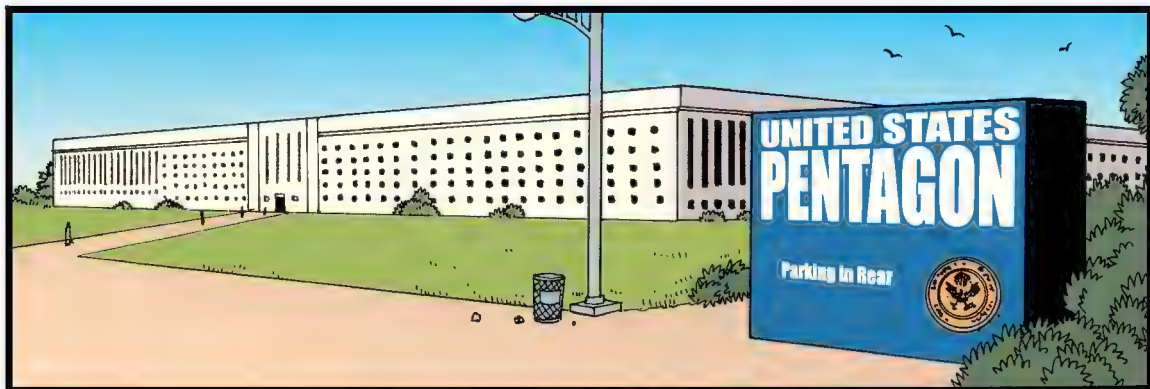
THANKS, ROBOT.  
PLEASE LET ME  
KNOW AS SOON  
AS YOU FIND  
SOMETHING  
OUT.

EVE,  
I--

WHAT  
GAVE YOU THE  
IMPRESSION  
THAT WE WERE  
SPEAKING  
AGAIN?



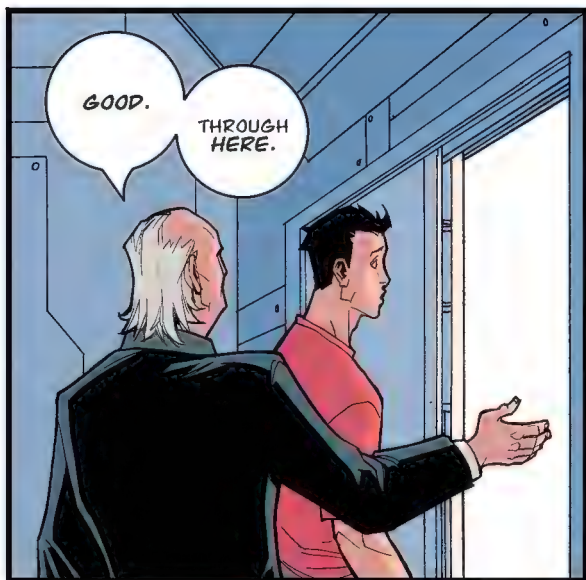
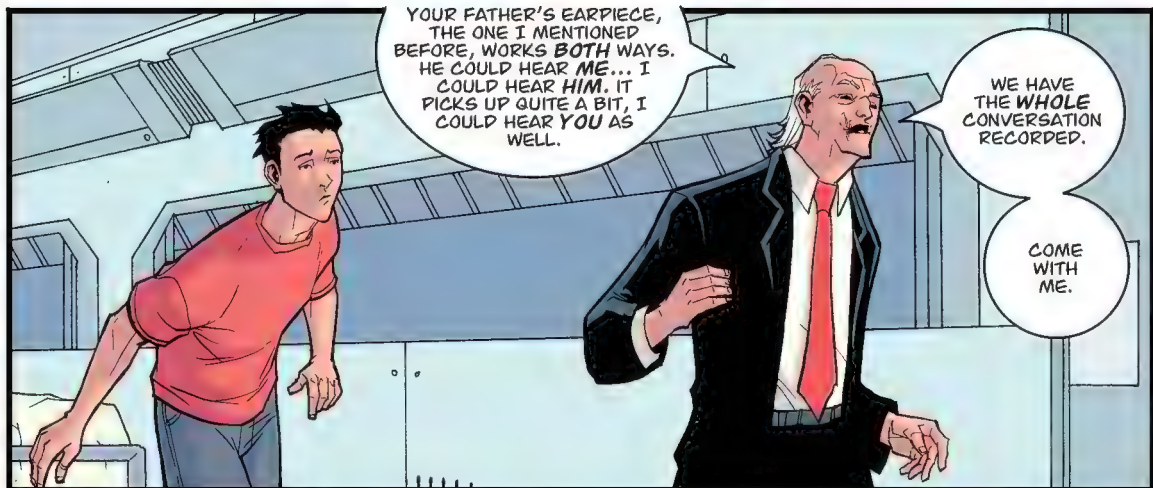




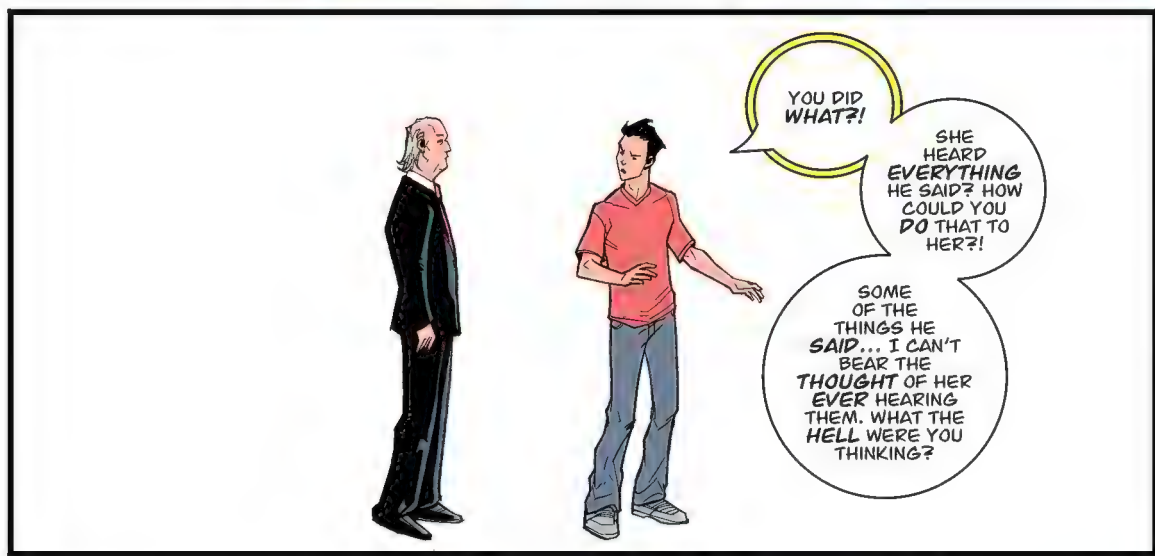
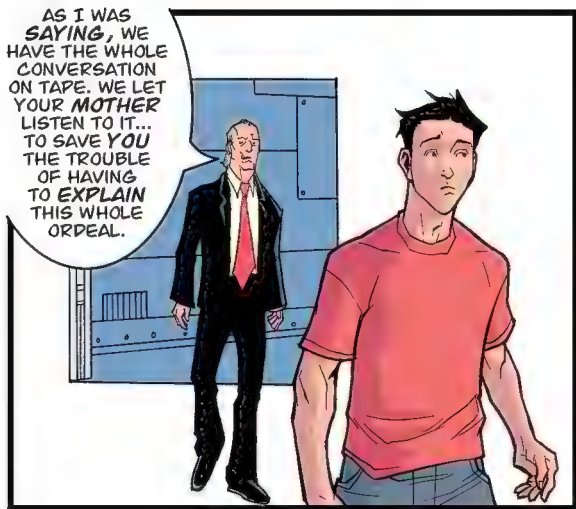


YEAH... TO SAY THE LEAST. IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WERE THE SON OF OMNI-MAN. NOW THE PUBLIC SEES YOU AND OMNI-MAN IN A KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT BRAWL THAT RESULTED IN **THOUSANDS** OF LOST LIVES, AND OVER **TWICE** AS MANY INJURIES.

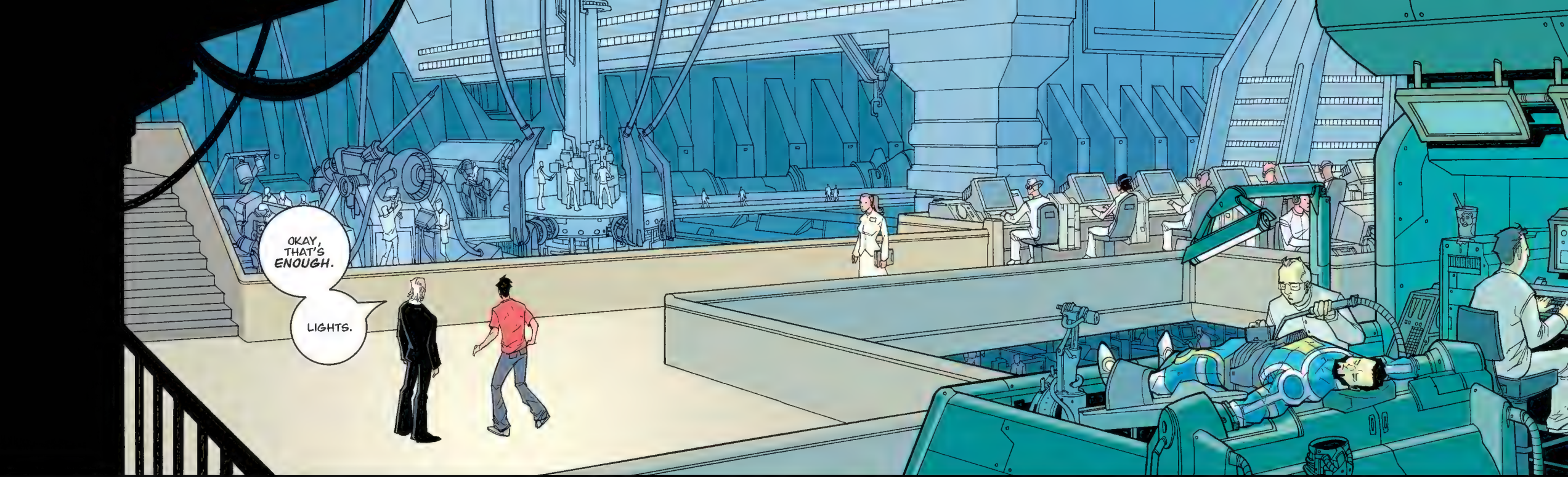
NOBODY KNOWS **WHY**, THOUGH. NOBODY KNOWS YOU WERE **PROTECTING** THIS PLANET FROM YOUR FATHER. NOBODY KNOWS THAT YOU WERE **RISKING YOUR LIFE** FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL.











WHAT? WHAT IN THE WORLD JUST HAPPENED?

WHERE DID ALL THAT GO?

IT'S STILL HERE. IT HASN'T MOVED. THE WATER AMERICA DRINKS SO CONVENIENTLY FROM THEIR TAP IS LACED WITH A CHEMICAL THAT INHIBITS THE EYE'S ABILITY TO SEE CERTAIN FREQUENCIES OF LIGHT.

THOSE FREQUENCIES ARE USED IN THIS ROOM.

SO IT'S ALL JUST INVISIBLE?

YES. YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE IN AMERICA DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS IN THIS ROOM, AND ELSEWHERE. YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW OFTEN THIS IS USED.

I TURNED THE LIGHTS OFF FOR A SECOND JUST SO YOU COULD SEE WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. I HOPE YOU DIDN'T SEE TOO MUCH... IF YOU DID... I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU.

HAH HAH! VERY FUNNY.

AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE.

SO IF IT'S THE LIGHT IN THE ROOM THAT'S MAKING ME UNABLE TO SEE ANYTHING, HOW COME I CAN SEE MYSELF... AND YOU?

THAT'S... COMPLICATED.

WE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE TOO ALARMED WHEN YOU CAME IN... IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT YOU AT LEAST SEE SOMETHING.

EXPLAINING THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME... A LOT OF TIME.

OKAY... WHERE WAS I? OH YEAH... YOUR MOTHER KNOWS. I'VE ALSO TAKEN CARE OF YOUR FAMILY FINANCES SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT AN INCOME. YOUR COLLEGE TOO WILL BE PAID FOR. I'VE PULLED SOME STRINGS. YOU GOT A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO UPSTATE UNIVERSITY LAST WEEK.

SWEET!

AREN'T YOU THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED WITH WHAT I WILL WANT IN RETURN FOR ALL THIS? I AM PART OF THE BIG SCARY GOVERNMENT, AFTER ALL.

CRAP.

I KNEW THERE'D BE A CATCH.

DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOT THAT BAD.

YOUR FATHER IS GONE. WE MONITORED HIM ON OUR SENSORS ALL THE WAY PAST OUR RANGE. HE DIDN'T CHANGE TRAJECTORIES AT ALL. HE WAS GOING SOMEWHERE. HE IS NOT IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM ANYMORE.

WE HAVE PROOF THAT THERE ARE OTHER PLANETS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE. KNOWING HOW LONG HE CAN HOLD HIS BREATH AND HOW FAST HE CAN FLY... IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO ASSUME YOUR FATHER COULD MAKE IT TO ONE OF THESE PLANETS.

HE WAS NOT COMMITTING SUICIDE BY FLYING INTO SPACE--THAT WAS ONE OF OUR TECHNICIANS' THEORIES--AT LEAST... WE'RE PRETTY SURE HE WASN'T.

WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS HE'S GONE. YOUR FATHER WAS VERY VALUABLE TO US... ESPECIALLY AFTER THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE WERE DEAD. HE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES AND THIS ENTIRE PLANET MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER.

WE NEED A REPLACEMENT.





YOU  
MEAN  
ME?

PRETTY  
MUCH, YEAH.  
WE'VE BEEN KEEPING  
AN EYE ON YOU SINCE  
YOUR FATHER TOLD US  
YOU WERE DEVELOPING  
POWERS OF YOUR OWN.  
YOU'VE IMPROVED  
VASTLY IN A VERY  
SHORT AMOUNT OF  
TIME.

YOUR  
FATHER HIMSELF  
SAID THAT YOU WILL  
EVENTUALLY BE JUST  
AS POWERFUL AS HIM.  
WE NEED YOU... AND  
AS YOU ALREADY  
KNOW... WE HAVE A  
LOT TO OFFER YOU  
IN RETURN.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS JUST BE  
A SUPERHERO AND ALLOW YOU  
TO TELL ME WHERE I NEED  
TO BE WHEN BAD STUFF  
HAPPENS?

THAT'S THE  
GIST OF IT,  
KID.

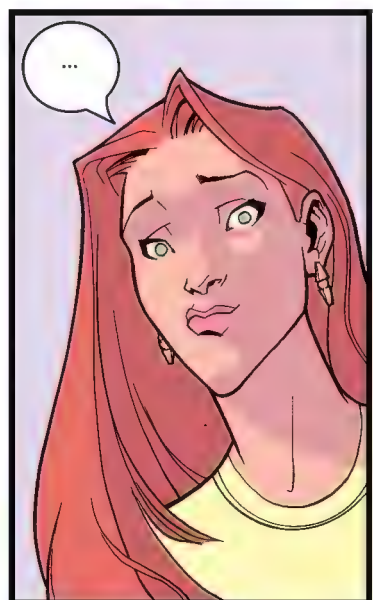
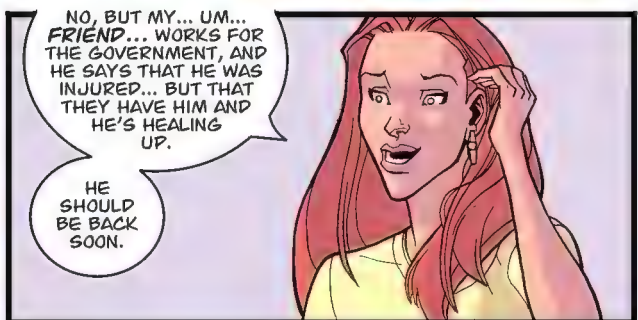
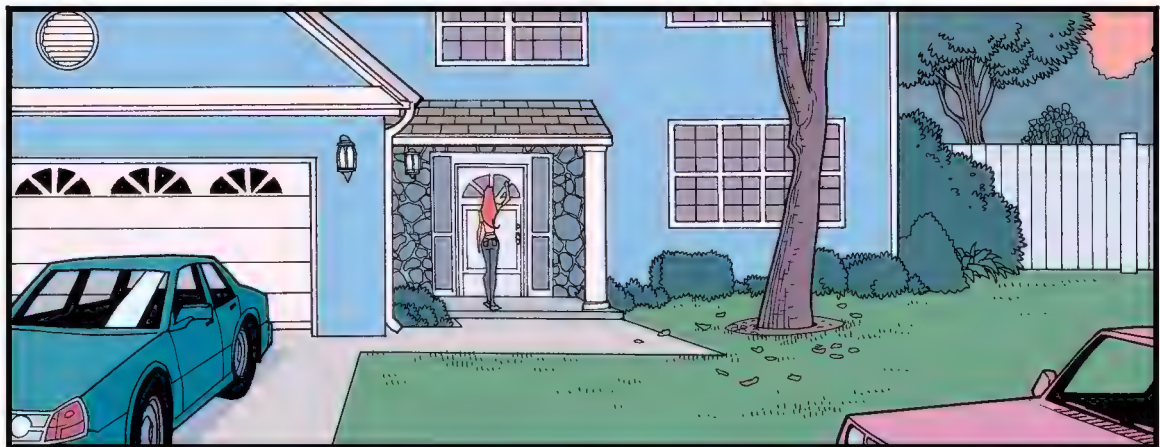
AND IN  
RETURN YOU'LL  
TAKE CARE OF MY  
MOM AND I GET A  
SCHOLARSHIP?

COUNT  
ME IN.

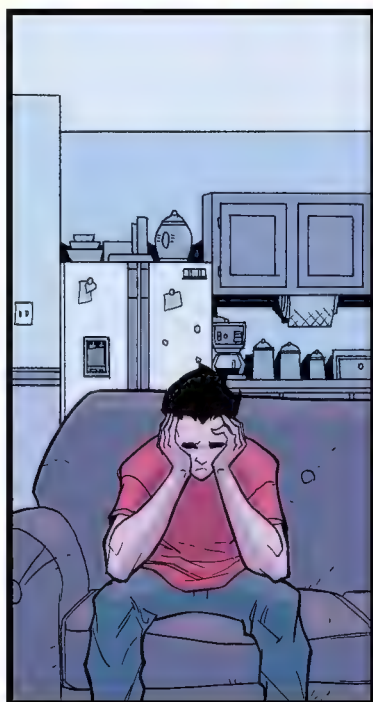
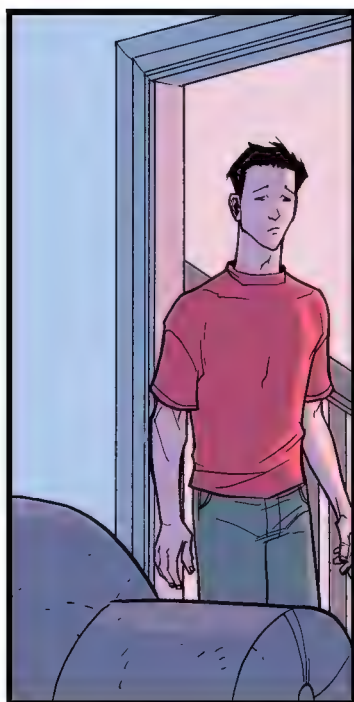
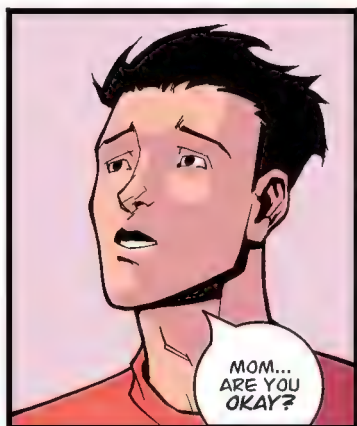
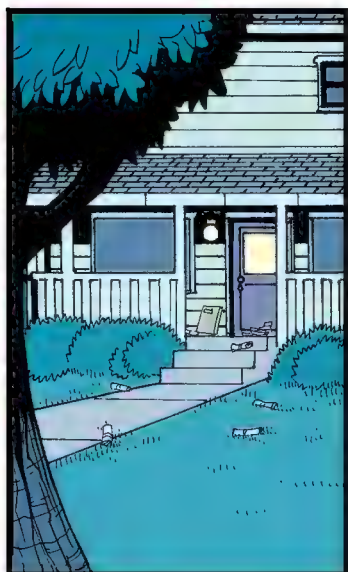


ALL RIGHT THEN.  
FOLLOW ME. NOW ALL  
WE NEED TO DO IS FIT  
YOU WITH AN EAR PIECE  
AND GET YOU A BEEPER  
AND YOU'LL BE READY  
TO GO HOME WITH  
YOUR MOTHER.

WELCOME  
ABOARD,  
MARK.

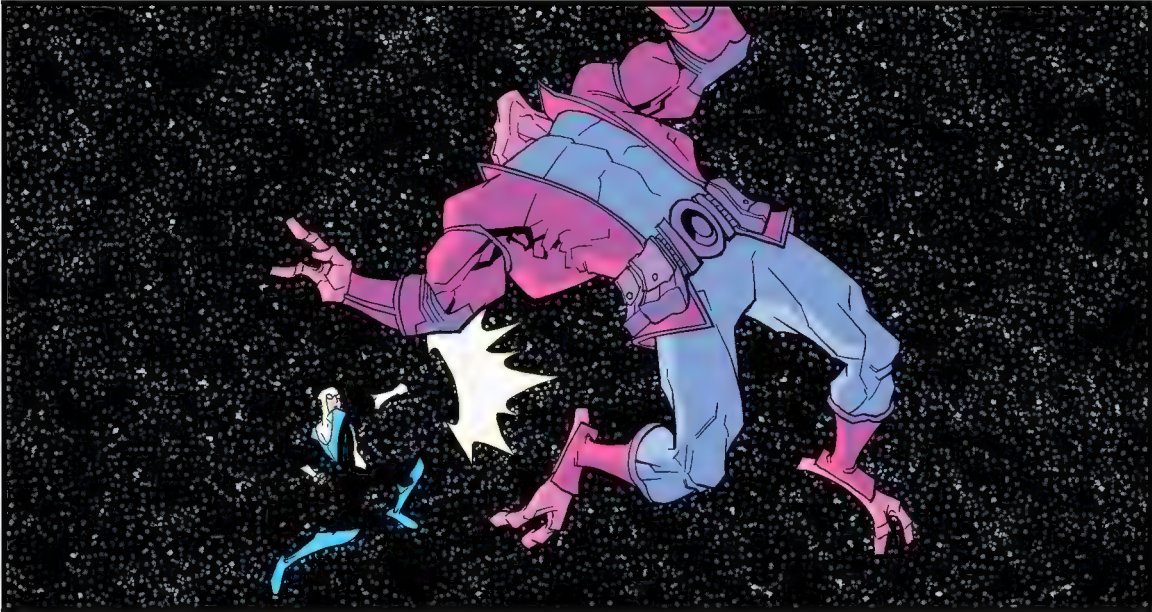
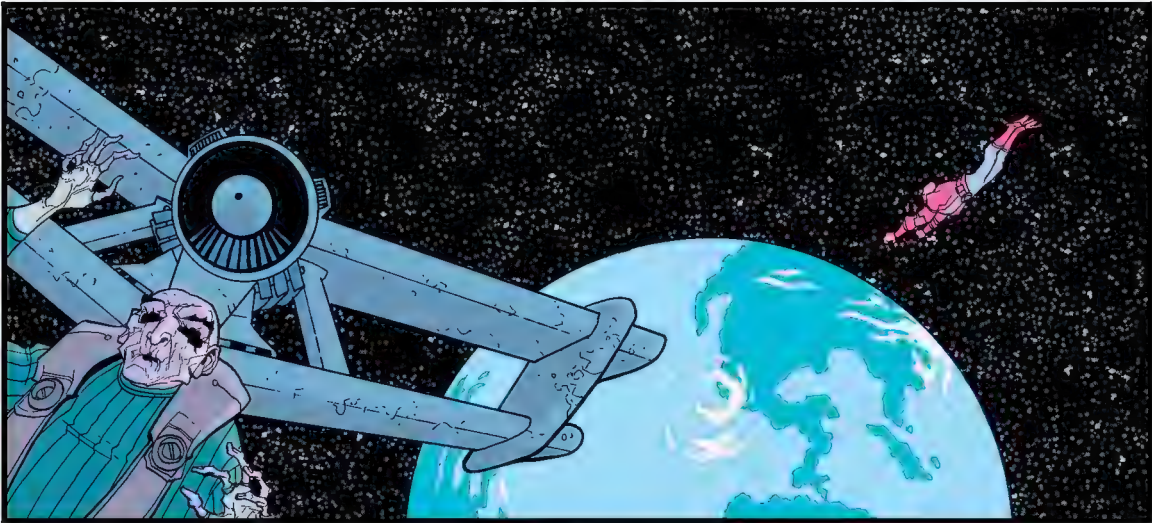








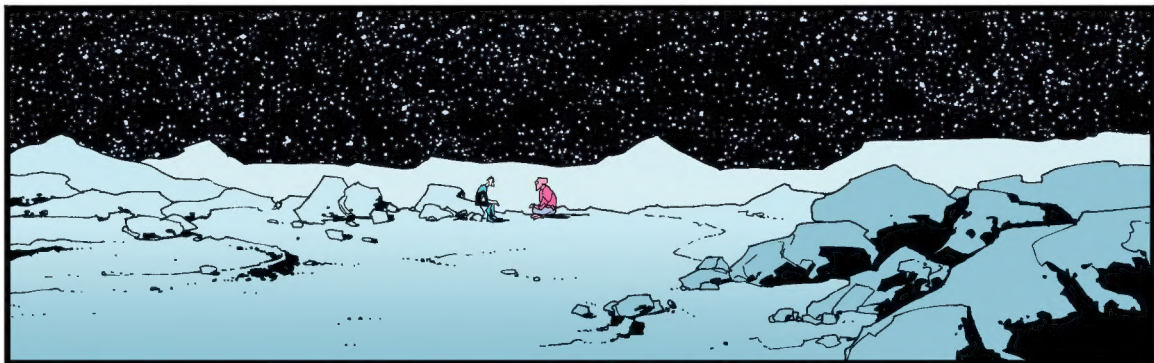










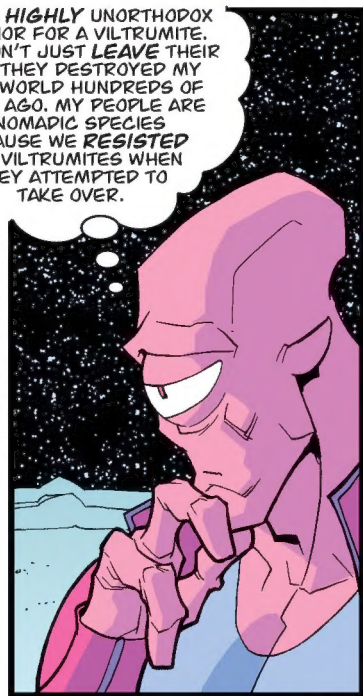


SO...  
YOU'RE A  
VILTRUMITE?

BUT  
YOU DON'T  
WORK FOR  
THEM... AND  
YOUR DAD  
LEFT. HE  
JUST  
LEFT.



YEAH. I'VE  
NEVER EVEN  
BEEN TO VILTRUM.  
I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW MUCH ABOUT  
THEM. BUT YEAH...  
AS FAR AS WE CAN  
TELL MY DAD IS  
JUST GONE.



THAT IS **HIGHLY** UNORTHODOX  
BEHAVIOR FOR A VILTRUMITE.  
THEY DON'T JUST **LEAVE** THEIR  
POST. THEY DESTROYED MY  
HOME WORLD HUNDREDS OF  
YEARS AGO. MY PEOPLE ARE  
A NOMADIC SPECIES  
BECAUSE WE **RESISTED**  
THE VILTRUMITES WHEN  
THEY ATTEMPTED TO  
TAKE OVER.



I'M  
VERY  
SORRY.

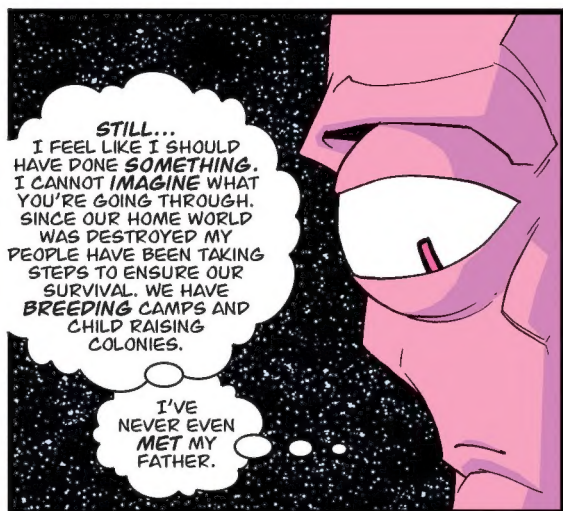
**DON'T BE.**  
YOU HAD NO PART IN IT.  
FROM THE SOUNDS OF IT...  
**I'M** THE ONE THAT SHOULD  
BE APOLOGIZING TO **YOU**. IF  
I HAD CHECKED MY RECORDS  
**BEFORE** I LEFT HERE, I  
MIGHT HAVE SEEN THAT  
EARTH HAD BEEN FLAGGED  
AS BEING PREPPED FOR  
A VILTRUMITE  
TAKEOVER.

I  
COULD  
HAVE  
WARNED  
YOU.





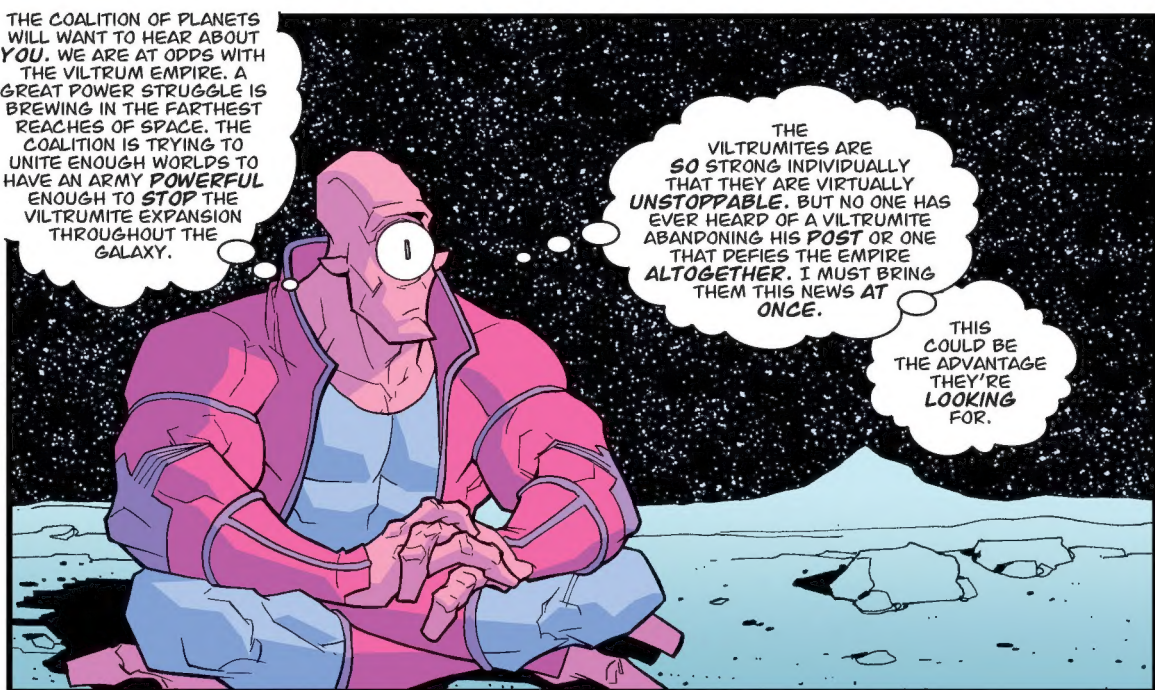
I WOULD HAVE JUST GONE TO MY DAD AND ASKED HIM ABOUT IT. WHO KNOWS HOW THINGS WOULD HAVE PLAYED OUT HAD THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?



STILL... I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING. I CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. SINCE OUR HOME WORLD WAS DESTROYED MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAKING STEPS TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL. WE HAVE BREEDING CAMPS AND CHILD RAISING COLONIES.

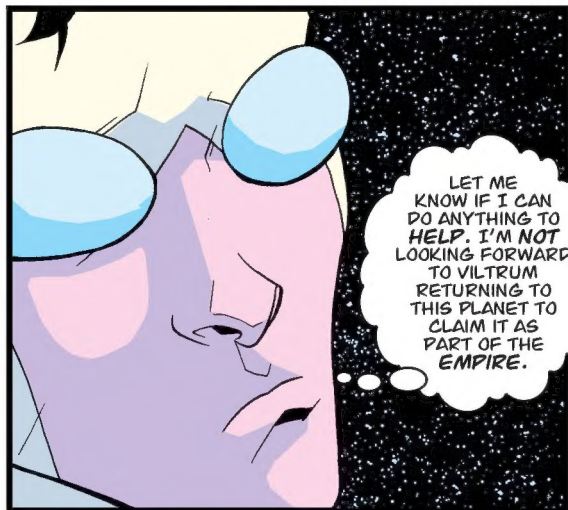
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET MY FATHER.

THE COALITION OF PLANETS WILL WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU. WE ARE AT ODDS WITH THE VILTRUM EMPIRE. A GREAT POWER STRUGGLE IS BREWING IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF SPACE. THE COALITION IS TRYING TO UNITE ENOUGH WORLDS TO HAVE AN ARMY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP THE VILTRUMITE EXPANSION THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.

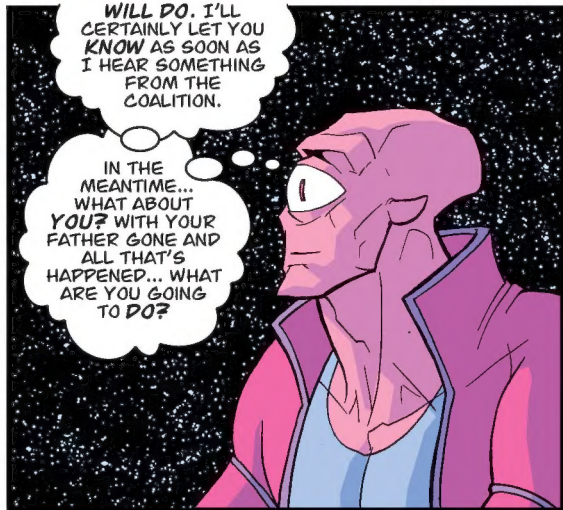


THE VILTRUMITES ARE SO STRONG INDIVIDUALLY THAT THEY ARE VIRTUALLY UNSTOPPABLE. BUT NO ONE HAS EVER HEARD OF A VILTRUMITE ABANDONING HIS POST OR ONE THAT DEFIES THE EMPIRE ALTOGETHER. I MUST BRING THEM THIS NEWS AT ONCE.

THIS COULD BE THE ADVANTAGE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.



LET ME KNOW IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO HELP. I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO VILTRUM RETURNING TO THIS PLANET TO CLAIM IT AS PART OF THE EMPIRE.



WILL DO. I'LL CERTAINLY LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS I HEAR SOMETHING FROM THE COALITION.

IN THE MEANTIME... WHAT ABOUT YOU? WITH YOUR FATHER GONE AND ALL THAT'S HAPPENED... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?





FINISH  
HIGH  
SCHOOL, I  
GUESS.